

## MILLIONAIRES AS FARMERS.

## The Produce From Their Estates Brings Them Small Fortunes.

The produce sent to market by just seventeen multi-millionaires of New York will exceed in value  $\frac{1}{2}$  million per annum.

With the millionaire farmer or florist the pursuit is generally a fad; his grounds are the most expensive that money can buy; his barns are princely structures; his hot-house plants are the finest that soil and science can produce; his milk is skimmed and churned by the latest methods; his cow is nurtured as kindly as a baby. She is guarded by day and by night; her food must be of the most delicate flavor; the water she drinks must be filtered; she has mats to lie on and her horns are polished. She has the attendance of a famous veterinarian.

The poultry plant of the millionaire farmer is equally fine. Science relieves the hen of maternal duties; her chicks are hatched by the incubator and housed in grandeur.

The millionaire farmer does not follow the pursuit to clear a fortune. But he sells the produce; that is a part of the fad.

In Madison, N. J., lies the princely estate of Hamilton McK. Twombly, son-in-law of W. H. Vanderbilt and next to the largest producer in this part of the country.

He owns a beautiful park, traversed by macadamized roads and covering nearly 400 acres. It is called Florham place and connects with Florham farms.

The palatial residence cost one million dollars. It is a wonder of domestic architecture, but the farm in its way is as wonderful.

Mr. Twombly averages in the neighborhood of \$75,000 a year from the sale of produce. The sale of the milk from his farm averages \$2,000 a month; his flowers from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year.

He supplies the Madison market with milk, cream, butter, vegetables and flowers, and sends large consignments of flowers to New York.

Mr. Twombly peddles milk at ten cents a quart—eight cents in summer—in a \$1,200 wagon, drawn by a pair of \$1,500 thoroughbreds in gold mounted harness. The farm wagons are hauled by \$1,000 thoroughbreds.

The cow stables are finished in hard wood. They are built upon English models, regardless of cost.

The dairy, lined throughout with tiling, is one of the finest in the United States. There are about 150 head of Guernseys on Florham farms, imported thoroughbreds, which furnish for market 300 gallons of milk a day. Mr. Twombly's prize cow is the famous Rutilla's daughter.

The garden at Florham farm grows the finest vegetables known to the soil. The greenhouses are famous. Their

walls are laid with Portland cement to stand hundreds of years. The most notable is the palm house, which towers sixty-four feet, topped by a mammoth dome.

The greenhouses are classified. Mr. Twombly makes a specialty of growing orchids and chrysanthemums. Most of these he ships to New York.

Mr. Twombly encourages his gardeners by rewards, and it is said that they receive a certain percentage upon what is sold.

The superintendent of the estate is Mr. E. Burnett, a polished gentleman, a Harvard graduate and school fellow of Mr. Twombly in his boyhood days. Gossip fixes his salary at \$10,000 a year, but that is not official.

Madison seems a chosen spot for millionaires with a fad for flower-growing. Mr. Marmaduke Tilden, a branch of the same stock as the late Samuel J. Tilden and an inveterate golf player, grows the finest Maid and American Beauty roses in the country. His sales average \$15,000 a year.

By the side of Mr. Tilden's are the greenhouses of Mr. C. A. Work. He supplies a large quantity of flowers to Madison and the surrounding country, an average of \$7,000 a year.

Near by is Mr. T. J. Slaughter's fine plant. His cultivation of flowers was at first a fad, but he made a great success and has shipped large consignments to New York for some years, averaging \$15,000 a year.

## Henry Hentz's Greenhouses.

One of the finest greenhouses in the country is that established a few years ago by Henry Hentz, Jr., a popular young millionaire.

He has nine greenhouses, each 175 feet long by 20 feet, built at a cost of \$50,000. His packing house is like some great fortress, with its walls two feet thick.

He sends out an average of \$25,000 worth of flowers a year. Mr. Hentz has taken up horticulture as a business occupation.

Mrs. R. B. Holmes, wife of the Wall Street broker, raises American Beauties. She has a green house in Madison and sends to market about \$7,000 worth of flowers annually.

One of the finest Westchester estates is Briar Cliff farm, the property of Mr. Walter W. Law, former partner of Mr. William J. Sloane.

This farm was established two years ago. It lies between Tarrytown and Sing Sing, and from its northern to its southern boundary covers four miles, traversed by macadamized roads.

The property was laid out under the advice of Mr. Olmstead, the landscape gardener of Central park.

That portion which overlooks the river approaches the boundaries of Scarborough and the estates of Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, William Rockefeller, H. Wal-

ter Webb, V. Everett Macy, James Speyer and the home grounds of the owner.

It is one of the most perfect farms in this country. On the estate is a schoolhouse, church and a golf course. There is a postoffice, a telegraph and long distance telephone.

The greenhouses on Briar Cliff farm cover several acres. The chrysanthemums and roses attain great perfection and 140 varieties of carnation are in bloom at one time.

The cow stables and dairy cost a fortune. Each cow is sponged several times a day and is always combed before milking. The attendants wear sterilized suits of white duck, which are boiled immediately after each milking. The farm maintains a well-equipped laboratory in charge of a veterinary chemist.

The dairy is fifty feet square, with a tower of rough stone. The structure is tiled throughout. It has a reception room of hard wood from which the different rooms are reached through doors of glass, where can be viewed the whole process of dairying.

In one room the cream is being skimmed, in another is the milk-bottling, in another the churning. In the basement is the shipping department, the sterilizing and the pasteurizing.

This farm is stocked with 600 Jersey cows, a few Normandies imported from France and several famous bulls. Two thousand quarts of milk a day, 300 quarts of cream and 500 pounds of butter a week are shipped to the Briar Cliff dairy agencies in New York City, Dobbs Ferry, Tarrytown and Yonkers.

Mr. Law ships more than \$70,000 worth of milk a year. The produce on his place averages \$150,000 annually.

Briar Cliff farm has been photographed by the government for display at the Paris exposition.

One of the most wonderful country places in the United States was Mountainside farm, founded by the late Theodore A. Havemeyer at Mahwah, New Jersey.

It was Mr. Havemeyer who set a fashion in cows. He elected that the Jersey must go and decided that the Guernsey should be the fashionable cow. This was a signal triumph of tweedledum and tweedledee.

The place comprised 3,000 acres of meadow, pasture and woodland and hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on it. The fence cost \$85,000.

Various European governments sent representatives to report on the methods used at this farm and for years it was the Mecca for scientific farmers.

For twenty years the herd of cows was bred for an abundance of milk. Their records were kept. Unusual methods were in vogue. Each cow had, if experiment proved she needed, a different quality and quantity of food.

It was rumored that the horns of the prize cow at the Havemeyer farm were